Whitehall

1939

Urban District of Builth Wells.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Health of the District for the year 1938.

By David J. Jones, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health of the North Breconshire Combined Districts.

BRECON,
OCTOBER, 1939.

TO THE BUILTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY, AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present the Report for the year 1938, relating to the Sanitary Conditions of the District, and the Health of the Inhabitants.

I wish to draw attention to the fact that the report is compiled from information which has been handed on to me. I entered upon my duties as your Medical Officer on May 1st this year, and since that time I have found conditions differing from those which I have to report in this annual report, namely in the housing section.

I have compiled various tables at the end of the report for purposes of comparison with similar tables for England and Wales, also for comparing statistics of Builth Urban District for 1938, with those of previous years.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
DAVID J. JONES,
Medical Officer of Health.

BUILTH URBAN DISTRICT.

A.—General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	701
Population (estimated mid-year 1938)	1,508
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938 according to Rate Book)	534
Rateable Value	£9,111
Sum represented by a penny rate	£36 10 0

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate ...	19	16	3
	Illegitimate ...	1	0	1

Birth Rate ... 13·26.

		Total	M.	F.
Still Births	Legitimate ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Illegitimate ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	19	8	11

Death Rate ... 12·6

Adjusting factor for Death Rate ... 0·84.

Adjusted Death Rate ... 10·6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes
1. From Sepsis ... Nil.
2. From other causes ... Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	Nil
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	Nil
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The Registrar General gives 1,508 as the Resident Population in the middle of 1938; the figure for 1937 was 1,537. The "natural increase," that is, the excess of births over deaths was 1.

Birth Rate.—There were 20 births during the year, of which 1 was illegitimate, giving a rate of 13·26 per 1,000. The figures for 1937 were 28 and 18·2 respectively.

Death Rate.—There were 19 deaths giving a death-rate of 12·6. This compares with 25 and 16·2 for 1937. The adjusted Death-Rate for comparison with that of England and Wales was 10·6 per 1,000. The causes of death are detailed in Table I, but amongst the more frequent causes were Heart Disease 7, Cancer 4. The number of deaths from Cancer, viz., 4, gives a death-rate per 100,000 population of 265. Of the 4 deaths from Cancer, 1 was a male, and 3 females.

Infant Mortality.—There were no deaths in infants under 1 year of age. In 1937 also there were no deaths in this category.

B.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

1. Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	...	David J. Jones, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor	...	Douglas D. Lloyd.

The M.O.H. is now a full-time officer

2. Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the home is carried out by the Builth Wells Nursing Association. The Association maintains a Certified Midwife who acts as a General Nurse and who visits the District.

3. Treatment Centres and Clinics—including Clinics solely for Diagnosis or Consultation.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held periodically at Builth Wells. Dr. Sutherland Williams, Assistant County Medical Officer is in attendance at each session of the Clinic.

An Orthopaedic Clinic, held periodically under the orthopaedic scheme of the County is available to residents of the Urban District.

Dr. N. T. K. Jordan, Tuberculosis Officer of the Welsh National Memorial Association, visits Builth Wells twice monthly, and residents of the Town can attend at his Tuberculosis Dispensary.

4. Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

The Builth Wells Cottage Hospital is a Voluntary Hospital, and is available for residents of the Town. The Hospital is well equipped, having 25 beds, an efficient X-Ray apparatus, and operating theatre.

5. Local Government Act, 1929.

Administered by the County Council.

6. Poor-Law Medical Out-Relief.

Administered by Public Assistance Department of the County Council.

7. Institutional Provision for Care of Mental Defectives.

Provided by the County Council.

8. Health Visiting.

This work is carried out by the Health Visitors employed by the County Council.

9. Children Act.

Administered by the County Council.

10. Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are no private maternity or nursing homes in the Urban District.

C.—Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

1. Water.

The District has a piped supply. No extension of public water supply has been made during the year. The quality and quantity of the water was apparently maintained.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

No sewage works have been carried out, and no alteration in closet accommodation has been made. Scavenging has been carried out efficiently.

3. Rivers and Streams.

No action taken in this respect.

4. Sanitary Inspection of the Area—

Table at end of report gives a summary of the Sanitary Inspector's inspections.

5. Eradication of Bed-bugs.

No action taken during year.

6. Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned Swimming Baths or Pools in the area.

7. Health Education.

No arrangements during the year for Health Education.

8. Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Schools is good. Neither school was closed during the year on account of infectious disease.

9. Smoke Abatement.

No occasion for action necessary.

10. Factories and Workshops.

All workshops, etc., inspected periodically and found satisfactory.

D.—Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total numer of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	29
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	29
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925—1932	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	Nil
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	Nil.
4. Number of dwelling houses (excluding those referred to in preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		4

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	5

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of Housing Act, 1936.		
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	8
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.		
(a) By owners	...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	13
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.		
(a) By owners	...	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.		
1. Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	Nil
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936.		

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or underground room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. Housing Act. 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

1. (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... 6

(b) Number of families dwelling therein ... 7

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 28

2. Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year ... Nil

3. (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 2

(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 13

4. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

5. Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the M.O H. may consider it desirable to report ... Nil

5. Number of Houses Owned by the Local Authority.

Distinguishing those built in the last 2 years and held under (1) Part III Housing Act, 1925 (2) Part II Housing Act, 1925, and (3) other powers.

(1)	During past 2 years under Part III Housing Act, 1925 ...	—
(2)	Previously built under Part III Housing Act, 1925 ...	10
(3)	Under Housing Act, 1890 ...	—
(4)	,, ,, 1919 ...	—
(5)	,, ,, 1930 ...	8

E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

Samples of milk taken from vendors in the Town were on the whole, satisfactory.

(b) Slaughter Houses.

These premises were inspected on 349 occasions, and found in a satisfactory condition. No carcases were destroyed on account of disease.

(c) Adulteration.

No Samples of food taken, such samples being taken by the County Inspector of Foods and Drugs.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

No examinations carried out under this head.

(e) Nutrition.

There is no scheme for education in this matter, and no special investigations in this condition carried out.

F.—Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

Up to the present time there is no hospital provision for cases of Infectious Disease. Cases are as a rule nursed at home. In many cases this might be carried out effectively, but when a case or cases require isolation and urgent treatment, there are no hospitals within easy reach of the District, and there are no agreements entered into with any hospital to ensure admission of cases if urgently necessary.

The provision of a joint hospital in Brecon for cases of Infectious Disease, to serve a number of Local Authorities in the County is at present under review.

Smallpox—No cases notified.

Diphtheria—There were no cases notified in 1938.

There is no scheme at present to my knowlede for immunising the general public or school children against Diphtheria.

Scarlat Fever—4.

Enteric Fever—Nil.

Pneumonia—5.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0	—	—	—	—	—		—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—

There was 1 new case of Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) notified in the Urban District during the year. This case was a transferred case from Carmarthen.

There was 1 death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The following shews in tabular form the cases notified and deaths occurring from Tuberculosis since 1931 :—

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Cases ...	5	2	1	1	5	2	2	1
Deaths ...	—	2	1	1	2	1	—	1

Weekly lists of Tuberculosis notifications are forwarded to the County Medical Officer.

Report of Sanitary Inspector.

The following inspections were carried out during the year 1938 :—

Nuisances	...	8
Food preparing places	...	49
Slaughter-houses	...	349
Cowsheds	...	245
Stables and Piggeries	...	50
Dairies	...	46
Bakehouses	...	54
Lodging Houses	...	52
Offensive Trades (Fellmonger)	...	52
Houses disinfected	...	1

Notices Issued :—

Informal	...	12
Statutory	...	Nil
Notices complied with	...	12

Premises and Occupations which can controlled by Bye-Laws :—

Slaughter-houses	...	3
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	4
Offensive Trades	...	1
Lodging Houses	...	1

BUILTH WELLS URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1938 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births—Nett.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
				Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1000 nett births.	Number.	Rate.
1931	1609	21	13·0	2	95·2	23	14·2
1932	1638	32	19·5	1	31·2	30	18·3
1933	1609	23	14·2	—	—	25	15·5
1934	1586	26	16·3	—	—	28	17·6
1935	1585	23	14·5	—	—	27	17.0
1936	1567	24	15·3	—	—	18	11·4
1937	1537	28	18·2	—	—	25	16·2
1938	1508	20	13·2	—	—	19	12·6

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1938.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Infantile Mortality during the year, 1938.

	Annual Rate per 1000 Population.			Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.
	Live Births.	Still Births.	Deaths.	
England and Wales ...	15·1	0·60	11·6	53
126 Great Towns including London ...	15·0	0·65	11·7	57
148 Smaller Towns ...	15·4	0·60	11·0	51
London ...	13·4	0·48	11·4	57

TABLE I.—BUILTH WELLS URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death During Year, 1938.

	Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
	All Causes ...	8	11
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2	Measles ...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever ...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough ...	—	—
5	Diphtheria ...	—	—
6	Influenza ...	1	—
7	Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	—
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	—
11	Syphilis ...	—	—
12	General Paralysis of Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ...	—	—
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	1	3
14	Diabetes ...	1	—
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ...	—	1
16	Heart Disease ...	2	5
17	Aneurysm ...	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases ...	1	—
19	Bronchitis ...	—	—
20	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	—
21	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer ...	—	—
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...	—	—
24	Appendicitis ...	—	1
25	Cirrhosis of Liver ...	—	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver ...	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	—
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	—	—
29	Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
30	Other Peuperal Causes ...	—	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations ...	—	—
32	Senility ...	—	—
33	Suicide ...	—	—
34	Other Violence ...	—	1
35	Other Defined Diseases ...	—	—
36	Causes, ill defined or unknown ...	—	—

TABLE II.—BUILTH WELLS URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1938.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
		At Ages. Years.								
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 - 5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 Upwards		
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	4	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	5	...	1	1	...	...	1	2	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Sp. Meningitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargiea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio Encephalitus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary T.B. ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Other forms T.B. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ..	10	...	3	2	2	..	1	2	...	...

D. R.
MIN. OF HEALTH
A-13 JAN 1940
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